Fossils and Mary Annings Year 5/6 Knowledge Organiser

Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter and palaeontologist.
She was born in 1799 and lived in Lyme Regis, Dorset. Lyme Regis is on the Jurassic Coast, an area rich in fossils.
Mary discovered important fossils, including ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs.
Her discoveries helped scientists learn about prehistoric life.

Women were often excluded from scientific societies. Despite these difficulties, she made many important discoveries.

Fossils

The preserved remains or traces of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago.

- An animal or plant dies.
- It is buried by sediment.
- More layers build up.
- Sediment turns into rock.
- Minerals preserve the remains.
- A fossil is formed



Mary discovered the first complete ichthyosaur and plesiosaur skeletons found in Britain. Her discoveries showed that different creatures lived millions of years ago.
The fossils helped scientists learn about extinct animals. Her work contributed to ideas about evolution.
She became one of the most important fossil collectors of the 19th century.

Lyme Regis
A seaside town in Dorset, England, where Mary Anning found many important fossils.



Palaeontologist
A scientist who studies fossils to learn about ancient plants and animals.



Plesiosaur
A large prehistoric marine reptile with a long neck, small head and flippers that lived in the sea.

Ichthyosaur
A prehistoric marine reptile that looked similar to a dolphin and lived millions of years ago.

Prehistoric
A time before people wrote down events and history

Preserved
Kept safe or protected from decay so it lasts for a very long time.

Scientific Society
A group of scientists who meet to share discoveries and ideas.

Evolution
The process by which living things slowly change over many generations.

Extinction
The process of a species dying out completely.

Mary found fossils of animals that no longer exist. Scientists gained evidence that species could become extinct. Her work supported ideas about evolution and change over time. Scientists learned about prehistoric oceans and the creatures